



Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke leaves the Criminal Courts Building Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, in Chicago. Van Dyke pleaded not guilty to murder charges in the 2014 shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald during his arraignment. Van Dyke, who is no longer being paid, has been free since posting bond.  
(Brian Jackson/Chicago Sun-Times via AP)  
Page 7

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## At Press Time:

# Belgian officials arrest 2 suspected of plotting attacks

**JOHN DAHLBURG**  
**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Belgian authorities announced Tuesday they have arrested two men and seized military-type uniforms and Islamic State group propaganda in connection with a suspected plot to unleash holiday season attacks against police, soldiers and celebrated locations in Brussels. The attacks under preparation "were the same style as those perpetrated in Paris Nov. 13," in which 130 people were killed and hundreds injured by suicide bombers and gunmen equipped with Kalashnikov-style assault rifles, according to an internal document from Belgian state

security services cited by RTBF French-language television. Those lethal actions were claimed by the Islamic State extremist group. The two suspects were arrested following searches Sunday and Monday in the Brussels area, the eastern Liege region and Flemish Brabant, the Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office said in a statement. It did not disclose their names or further information about them. During the searches, no weapons or explosives were found, but military-type training uniforms, IS propaganda material and computer equipment were impounded and are being examined, the prosecutor's office said. It said the case was unrelated to the



Belgian soldiers patrol as tourists visit the Grand Place in Brussels on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015. Two people have been arrested in Belgium on suspicion of planning attacks in Brussels during the holidays, the federal prosecutor's office said Tuesday. A source close to the investigation said the Belgian capital's main square, thronged this time of year with holiday shoppers and strollers, was one of the suspected targets.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

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brazen and bloody extremist actions in Paris a month and a half ago but that the investigation, which is still ongoing, has revealed a "threat of serious attacks that would target several emblematic places in Brussels and be committed during the end-of-year holidays."

The prosecutor's office gave no more details about the intended targets, but an official close to the investigation told The Associated Press that they included the Belgian capital's cobblestoned main square, thronged between Christmas and New Year's with shoppers and strollers, as well as a police headquarters in an adjacent street. "On the Grand Place, there are a lot of people, as well as soldiers and police who are patrolling, as well as a police station nearby," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized by the judge leading the investigation to make public statements.

As of Tuesday, police and soldiers in Brussels are being ordered to take special precautions to ensure their own safety, Benoit Ramacker, spokesman for the Belgian government's Crisis Center, said. Police and army patrols were greatly

beefed up in Brussels following the Paris attacks, and Ramacker said a new official threat assessment conducted Monday after the searches and arrests, concluded officers and troops deployed to protect Brussels have become targets of choice themselves.

"And so we prefer to remind them of certain safety guidelines, so that they reinforce their own security and all goes well," Ramacker said in an interview at Crisis Center headquarters. He and other government officials declined to provide specifics, but Belgian media reported that police officers in the six police zones of Brussels will no longer be allowed to leave their stations alone or without their firearm, and that police stations in most neighborhoods will shut their doors at 8 p.m. instead of remaining open around the clock.

In January, Belgian anti-terrorism units broke up what they said was an imminent attack on police by raiding a house in the eastern city of Verviers, killing two suspected jihadis and arresting a third. Their main quarry, however, was not there: Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who went on to become the suspected ringleader of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris. □





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## US official: Airstrikes have killed 10 Islamic State leaders

**LOLITA C. BALDOR**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. and coalition airstrikes killed 10 Islamic State leaders over the past month, including several linked to the Paris attacks or other plots against the West, a U.S. military official in Iraq said Tuesday.

U.S. Army Col. Steve Warren

told Pentagon reporters that the militants were killed mainly by drone strikes in Iraq and Syria.

He offered few details, but said at least two of those killed were linked to the Paris attacks. According to Warren, one of the insurgents killed was Charaffe al Mouadan, a Syrian-based IS member who was di-

rectly linked to Abdel Hamid Abaaoud, the Paris attack cell leader. Mouadan, who was killed by an airstrike last Thursday in Syria, was planning additional attacks against the West, Warren said. Also killed was Abdel Kader Hakim, who was part of the Islamic State group's effort to plan attacks against Western



Spokesman for the US-led coalition in Iraq Col. Steve Warren speaks to reporters during a news conference in Baghdad, Iraq. Col. Warren told Pentagon reporters that U.S. and coalition airstrikes killed 10 Islamic State leaders over the past month, including several linked to the Paris attacks or other plots against the West.

(AP Photo/K. Mohammed, Pool)



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targets and "had links" to the Paris attack network, Warren said. Most of the 10 appeared to be mid-level leaders.

Warren's announcement came as Belgian authorities said they had arrested two men in connection with a suspected plot involving attacks during the holiday season in Brussels. They said the plans involved attacks similar to those that hit Paris on Nov. 13, when 130 people were killed and hundreds more wounded by suicide bombers and gunmen. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks. The U.S. is ramping up pressure on such high-value militants. Earlier this month, President Barack Obama announced that he is sending U.S. special operations forces into Iraq to conduct clandestine raids targeting Islamic State group leaders.

The commandos — likely about 100 — would operate in small teams, gathering intelligence that will fuel airstrikes and other operations. So far, the Pentagon has not said when the special operations forces will deploy.

Warren said that one of the other militants killed was from Bangladesh but was educated as a computer systems engineer in the United Kingdom.

The insurgent, Siful Haque Sujan, was killed near Raqqa, Syria. He worked as a computer hacker for the Islamic State group and coordinated anti-surveillance technology and weapons development, Warren said. "We're striking at the head of this snake," Warren said. "We haven't severed the head of the snake yet, and it's still got fangs. We have to be clear about that. There's much more fighting to do." □



Officials:

## 'Affluenza' teen, mother planned flight to Mexico



This Dec. 28, 2015 photo released by Mexico's Jalisco state prosecutors office shows who authorities identify as Ethan Couch, after he was taken into custody in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. (Mexico's Jalisco state prosecutor's office via AP)

E. SCHMALL

E. CASTILLO

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) —

A Texas teenage fugitive and his mother attempted to disguise themselves and disappear among the American tourists who flocked to a Mexican resort city for the holidays, but are now in custody and set for deportation to the U.S., authorities said Tuesday.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said 18-year-old Ethan Couch — known for invoking an "affluenza" defense after he killed four people in a drunken driving wreck — and his mother had prepared to be gone awhile, even dying Couch's blond hair black, before being detained Monday in the Pacific Coast city of Puerto Vallarta.

"They had planned to disappear. They even had something that was almost akin to a going-away party before leaving town," Anderson said. He would not give details about the event including how many people attended.

Couch was on juvenile probation for the wreck

when he was 16. During the sentencing phase of his trial, a defense expert argued that his wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — a condition the expert termed "affluenza." The condition is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its invocation drew ridicule. The sheriff has said he believes the two fled in late November after a video surfaced that appears to show Couch at a party where people were drinking. If found to be drinking, Couch's probation could be revoked and he could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

Anderson said Couch and his mother apparently crossed the border in her pickup and drove to Puerto Vallarta, though the whereabouts of the truck are unknown. The U.S. Marshals found the two in Mexico, and worked with Mexican agencies to apprehend them. It was not clear whether they had any accomplices.

No immediate charges were planned for others who may have known

about or assisted with the flight plan, Anderson said. He said authorities have no evidence that Couch's father was involved.

Anderson said an arrest warrant was being issued for Couch's mother, Tonya Couch, on charges of hindering an apprehension, a third-degree felony that carries a sentence of two to 10 years in prison. Tarrant County District Attorney Sharen Wilson said that at a hearing next month she plans to ask a judge to transfer Ethan Couch's case to adult court.

Couch would then face up to 120 days in an adult jail, followed by 10-year probation. If he violates probation, he could face up to 10 years in prison per death, Wilson said.

If the judge declines to transfer Couch to adult court, Wilson will ask that his probation be revoked, in which case he could be held in a juvenile facility until his sentence expires when he turns 19 next April.

Couch's attorneys, Scott Brown and Reagan Wynn, said in a statement they won't comment until they speak with him, which likely won't happen before Couch reaches the U.S.

Ricardo Ariel Vera, the representative of Mexico's immigration institute in the western state of Jalisco, said the mother and son were being held at immigration offices in the state capital, Guadalajara, and would be returned to the United States aboard a commercial flight to Houston. □

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## After rain deluge, rare winter floods on Mississippi River



Volunteers form a human chain as they help load sandbags Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, in St. Louis. Flooding across Missouri has forced the closure of hundreds of roads and threatened homes. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

**JIM  
JIM SUHR**  
Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Warm and wet weather over the last several weeks followed by storms that brought a deluge of rain in recent days have produced a severe threat of flooding along the Mississippi River, where water could reach record high levels soon in some places. The winter flooding is unusual and could portend even worse problems in the spring depending on weather the rest of the season. Here's a look at what is

**SALTER** prompting the concern:

### RECORD CRESTS

The sudden flooding along the Mississippi River is both rare and historic. At a time of the year when both precipitation and the river level typically are well below normal, there could be record crests in some places along the Mississippi. The river already was high due to an unseasonably warm, wet late fall and early winter. Torrential rains — 6 to 10 inches in parts of eastern Missouri and western Illinois — since

Saturday pushed it to the unprecedented levels. The Mississippi is expected to reach 49.9 feet by Friday at Chester, Illinois, south of St. Louis. That would top by two-tenths of a foot the all-time high reached on Aug. 7, 1993. It also is expected to match the highest level ever on Saturday at Cape Girardeau in southeast Missouri. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay declared a flood emergency. Major flooding is predicted at several other points from just north of St. Louis through the South. Flood plain buyouts along

the Mississippi in recent years may mitigate the damage, but some homes are endangered. The mayor of West Alton, Missouri, 20 miles north of St. Louis, ordered the 520 residents to evacuate because the flood levee isn't high enough for the expected crest.

### WHY SO HIGH?

Much of nation has enjoyed an unusually warm late fall and early winter, but it has come with a price.

"It has been a lot warmer than normal, and the warmer air can hold more moisture in the atmosphere," said Scott Watson, a hydrologist for the National Weather Service office near Kansas City, Missouri.

The result has been higher than normal rainfall, causing the Mississippi to be unusually high. St. Louis has received nearly 10 inches of rain in December, according to the National Weather Service — four times the normal amount. Around 7 inches of rain have fallen since Saturday.

The warm spell seems to be coming to an end. Highs along the river basin in Missouri and Illinois are expected to be in the 40s for most of this week, with overnight lows in the 20s. But Watson said that's probably not cold enough to cause ice

to form on the fast-moving river.

### WAITING DOWNRIVER

National Weather Service hydrologist Marty Pope said that flood crests on the Lower Mississippi below the mouth of the Arkansas River won't set overall records, but will probably be the highest ever recorded in winter.

"We're looking at water stretching from levee to levee," Pope told reporters Monday in Pearl, Mississippi. That means that inhabited areas on the river side of levees, as well as ports and casinos, could be affected. The river is predicted to crest in Memphis on Jan. 9, with the peak water traveling downstream to Natchez, Mississippi, by Jan. 18. "It's still raining in parts of the basin," Pope said. There could be a lot of change between now and then."

### LEVEE SLIDE

Heavy rainfall has already inundated a levee in northeast Louisiana. Part of the Mississippi River levee near Alsatia, in East Carroll Parish, collapsed. Greg Raimondo, a spokesman for the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the district plans to activate its flood-fighting plan on Friday, increasing patrols along levees, looking for sand boils, seepage and landslides. □

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## Attorneys: Cops in boy's shooting reacted on what they knew

**MARK GILLISPIE  
JOHN SEEWER  
Associated Press**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — The two police officers cleared Monday of criminal charges in the fatal shooting of a 12-year-old black boy reacted based on what they knew at the time, that a "guy" was waving a gun and pointing it at people, their attorneys said Tuesday.

It was not until after the shooting, with the gun on the ground, that police learned that the boy, Tamir Rice, was playing with a replica firearm that shoots nonlethal plastic pellets, the lawyers said. And it was not until later that they realized he 12 years old, they said.

Frank Garmback, the training officer who drove the cruiser that day, and Timothy Loehmann, the officer who shot Tamir, might have

acted differently if they'd been given that information, said Michael Maloney, Garmback's attorney.

The November 2014 shooting is one of several across the U.S. that have fueled the "Black Lives Matter" movement protesting the treatment of African-Americans by law enforcement. The man who called emergency dispatch service told the call-taker that a "guy" was pulling a gun out of his waistband and was pointing it at people outside a city recreation center. But the caller also said it could be a juvenile and the gun might be a fake.

The call-taker didn't relay that information to the dispatcher who sent Loehmann and Garmback to the recreation center.

Garmback, a veteran officer, knew the area around the recreation center could be a dangerous

place where gang members gathered, his attorney said.

"It's against this backdrop that he got this call," Maloney said.

On Monday, county Prosecutor Tim McGinty announced that the two officers wouldn't be indicted because of "indisputable" evidence that Tamir was reaching for what the officers thought was a real gun tucked in his waistband. McGinty said Tamir was trying to hand the weapon over to police or to show them it wasn't real, but the officers had no way of knowing that.

Maloney said Garmback was relieved by the grand jury's decision, which Tamir's family has condemned. The two officers are not allowed to return to patrol duties as the city conducts an internal review to determine if they



Cuyahoga County prosecutor Tim McGinty answers questions during a news conference in Richfield, Ohio. McGinty said Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, that a grand jury declined to indict Timothy Loehmann, a white rookie police officer, in the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, a black youngster who was shot while playing with what turned out to be a pellet gun.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

should face administrative discipline. The attorney for Loehmann, Henry Hilow, said critics have created a national dialogue about the shooting that don't match the facts about what the officers knew.

"Police are mostly criticized for not responding," Hilow

said. "When they act for the safety of the community, they're vilified for it."

Both attorneys said the officers weren't available for interviews because of a pending federal lawsuit filed by Tamir's family against them and the city. □

## Chicago Officer Pleads Not Guilty

**CARLA K. JOHNSON  
Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A white Chicago police officer charged with murder in the 2014 fatal shooting of a black teenager pleaded not guilty Tuesday.

Jason Van Dyke is "hanging in there" and wants to tell his side of what happened so he's not seen "as this cold-blooded killer," defense attorney Dan Herbert said after the court hearing. Herbert added that they haven't ruled out asking for a change of venue. The case is in Cook County Criminal Court in Chicago where demonstrators have staged marches protesting the shooting and how it's been handled.

Van Dyke, 37, faces six counts of first-degree murder and one of official

misconduct in the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. The officer, wearing a dark suit and blue striped tie, appeared in court Tuesday as his lawyer entered the plea on his behalf.

Judge Vincent Gaughan set the next hearing for Jan. 29.

Cook County prosecutors were not available for comment after the arraignment. Public outcry has been furious since a dashboard camera video was released last month showing the veteran officer shooting McDonald 16 times. The teenager, armed with a knife, was veering away from officers when Van Dyke opened fire.

The footage sparked days of street demonstrations, the forced resignation of

Police Superintendent Gary McCarthy and a broad federal civil rights investigation of the Police Department's practices and how allegations of officer misconduct are handled.

Over the weekend, Chicago police killed two other people, a 55-year-old woman who was shot accidentally and a 19-year-old man police described as "combative" before he was shot. Both were black. Police have not released the race of the officer or officers involved and will not say how many officers fired their weapons or what the man and woman were doing before they were shot.

A series of police killings of blacks across the country has given rise to the Black Lives Matter protest movement. □

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# Iraqi PM tours Ramadi to hail city's liberation from IS

**S. SALAHEDDIN**  
**Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — A triumphant Iraqi prime minister on Tuesday toured the western city of Ramadi, just a day after government troops routed Islamic State militants from the area and recaptured a key government complex.

Iraqi state TV reported that Haider al-Abadi was in Ramadi but offered no further details. But an Iraqi military commander, Brig. Gen. Ahmed al-Belawi told The Associated Press that the prime minister kicked off the visit by meeting security and provincial officials for the latest updates.

Across the city meanwhile, military engineering teams were clearing bombs from the streets and nearby

buildings, al-Belawi said, even as sporadic clashes were underway in outlying parts of the city.

Ramadi, the Anbar provincial capital, fell to IS in May, marking a major setback for Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led campaign. The Baghdad government was quick to announce a counter-offensive to retake the city but attempts repeatedly stalled.

Then in November, al-Abadi's forces announced a major push to recapture Ramadi, warning residents to leave and advancing quickly across the Euphrates River.

Their progress was subsequently slowed by heavy IS resistance, booby-trapped buildings and sniper fire. The militants blew up all



**Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, center, raises an Iraqi flag in the city of Ramadi after it was retaken by the security forces in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015. Iraqi military forces on Monday retook a strategic government complex in the city of Ramadi from Islamic State militants who have occupied the city since May. (AP Photo)**

bridges leading into the city center.

On Monday, Iraqi forces, backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, drove IS militants out of the city center and raised the Iraqi flag over the government complex.

As significant — and symbolic — as the action was, Iraqi military officials said Islamic State fighters were still holed up in various pockets of the city.

Ramadi, located about 130 kilometers (80 miles)

west of Baghdad, and nearby Fallujah, which lies half-way on the road to Baghdad and remains under IS control, saw some of the heaviest fighting of the eight-year U.S. intervention in Iraq. □



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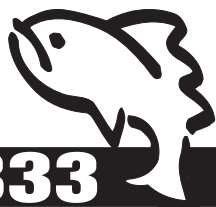


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## Syrian troops advance in south and center

**BRIAN ROHAN**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syrian forces have retaken a key southern military base after heavy fighting with rebels and an al-Qaida affiliate, and seized mountain villages after driving out Islamic State fighters, the government and opposition activists said Tuesday. The advances came after the army killed 17 fighters from Islamic rebel factions gathered at farmhouses in the southern Daraa province late Saturday, and also eliminated a powerful rebel leader on the outskirts of Damascus a day earlier.

On Tuesday, government forces backed by allies captured the base of Bri-

gade 82 in the town of Sheikh al-Maskeen, also in the Daraa area, which rebels had captured last January, the two sides said, adding that the troops also took control of the northern part of the town. The area is some 90 kilometers (56 miles) from the capital, Damascus.

"It's a very important gain for the regime forces. They've now cut the road between Daraa and Damascus," said Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Daraa was the birthplace of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar Assad, which began with mostly peaceful protests but escalated into a civil war fol-

lowing a harsh crackdown on dissent. The conflict has killed more than 250,000 people and generated a massive refugee crisis.

Abdurrahman said the fighting began a day earlier and that among the rebels were fighters from al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front, as well as various Islamic factions. Government troops were bolstered by Iranian officers, pro-government militiamen and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, as well as some 80 airstrikes from the government side, possibly including some from Russian aircraft, he added.

Assad's forces have been on a major push since Russia began an air campaign in Syria on Sept. 30. □





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## Turkey's Erdogan meets king in Saudi Arabia for Syria talks

A. AL-SHIHRI  
SUZAN FRASER  
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Hours before he arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Syria's president of "mercilessly" killing hundreds of thousands of people and criticized Russia for backing him.

Erdogan was speaking to reporters before departing for Saudi Arabia, where he met King Salman for talks focused on the Syrian civil war and energy cooperation. Turkey and Saudi Arabia are strong backers of the rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad, who is supported by Russia and Iran. Erdogan said his government and Saudi Arabia are working "in solidarity and consultation" to find a political solution for Syria, as both countries push for

an agreement that would remove Assad from power. The state-run Saudi Press Agency said Erdogan's talks with Salman were attended by other senior Saudi royals and officials, including the kingdom's crown prince, the deputy crown prince, and the ministers of finance, foreign affairs and information. Erdogan's delegation to Saudi Arabia includes the country's ministers of economy, energy and foreign affairs. The two sides were expected to discuss energy cooperation as Ankara works to diversify its supplies following a rift with Moscow over the downing of a Russian plane.

The Saudi Press Agency confirmed the two leaders discussed the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, as well as developments in war-torn Libya and Yemen, where Saudi forces are battling Shiite rebels. □



In this picture released Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, and Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, right, pose for a photo during their meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Erdogan is in town for talks focused on the civil war in Syria. Turkey and Saudi Arabia are strong backers of the Syrian Sunni opposition fighting to oust the Iranian-backed Syrian President Bashar Assad from power. (Saudi Arabian Press Agency via AP)

## Suicide bombing kills 26, wounds over 45 in northwestern Pakistan

RIAZ KHAN  
Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a government office in a northwestern Pakistani city on Tuesday, killing at least 26 people and wounding 45 in an attack claimed by a breakaway Taliban group. The bombing took place in the city of Mardan, outside the regional office of the National Database and Registration Authority, or NADRA, which issues identity cards, according to senior police officer Saeed Khan Wazir. Wazir told The Associated Press that some of the wounded were in critical condition at a hospital in the nearby city of Peshawar. "A gun-

man opened fire and killed a guard upon being asked to stop for checking. Then he exploded his suicide jacket," he said. Wazir said if the attacker had managed to enter the government office, he might have killed many more people. Mohammad Qasim told The Associated Press from his hospital bed that he went to the office to receive his national identity card, which is issued at age 18.

"I was in a very happy mood today. I told my family and friends that I would receive my national identity card, but I didn't know that I would become the target of a bombing," said Qasim, who had bandages on both legs. □

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## Russian investigators indict 4 men for Nemtsov's murder

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian investigators on Tuesday filed an indictment against four men accused of involvement in the murder of opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, a brazen killing which sent shockwaves among the opposition earli-

er this year. Nemtsov, a top opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was shot late at night on Feb. 27 as he was walking across the bridge just outside the Kremlin. Five Chechen men have been arrested on charges of involve-

ment in the killing, but it has remained unclear who ordered the attack. The Investigative Committee, Russia's top investigative body, said in a statement that investigators have filed the final indictment against four of the five suspects

and expect to formally indict the fifth one shortly. The committee said the probe is expected to wrap up in January. Among those indicted was the suspected triggerman, Zaur Dadayev, a former officer in the security forces of Chechnya's

regional leader, Ramzan Kadyrov.

A separate probe is expected for the fugitive suspected organizer, Ruslan Mukhudinov, who had worked as a personal driver of senior Chechen police officer Ruslan Geremeyev. □

## Israel's Olmert to become first leader to go to prison

**JOSEF FEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who claimed to be on the cusp of a historic peace deal with the Palestinians just a few years ago, now is set to become the first Israeli leader to go to prison after the Supreme Court upheld a bribery conviction against him Tuesday. The decision capped a seven-year legal saga that severely undermined the last serious round of peace talks and propelled hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to power. In some ways, Tuesday's decision was a success for Olmert. The five-judge panel dismissed the most serious bribery charge against him and reduced



**Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert speaks to the press in the Supreme Court after the court reduced his sentence from six years to 18 months in prison in the Holyland corruption case in Jerusalem on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015.**

(Debbie Hill/Pool Photo via AP)

his original prison sentence from six years down to 18 months. He is set to report to prison on Feb. 15. "A stone has been lifted from my heart," a visibly

relieved Olmert told reporters. "I said in the past, I was never offered and I never took a bribe. And I say that again today." But it nonetheless served as

a reminder of what might have been had he managed to complete his term before the scandal forced him to step down in early 2009.

Olmert was a longtime fixture in Israel's hawkish right wing when he began taking a dramatically more conciliatory line toward the Palestinians as deputy prime minister a decade ago. He played a leading role in Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005. He became prime minister in January 2006 after then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke — and subsequently led their newly formed Kadima Party to victory in parliamentary elections on a platform of pushing further peace moves with the

Palestinians.

In a recent interview broadcast on Channel 10 TV, Olmert said his political transformation began while he was mayor of Jerusalem during the 1990s and early 2000s. He said the wide gaps between the city's Jewish and Arab neighborhoods led him to conclude that the continued occupation of millions of Palestinians was unsustainable.

A gifted orator, Olmert broke a series of taboos while in office — warning that Israel could become like apartheid South Africa if it continued its occupation of the Palestinians and expressing readiness to relinquish control of parts of the holy city of Jerusalem under a peace deal. □

## Norway proposes stricter asylum rules for refugees

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — Norway's center-right government on Tuesday proposed tightening the country's asylum rules to avoid what the immigration minister described as "violent consequences" for the country's welfare system. The measures, which would need parliamentary approval, include making

it more difficult for refugees to bring family members to Norway and raising the requirements for permanent residence permits. The move comes after more than 30,000 asylum-seekers sought shelter this year in the wealthy country of 5.1 million people. Immigration Minister Sylvi Listhaug, of the right-wing

Progress Party, noted that's one of the highest numbers in Europe in relation to population size. She said 10,000 to 100,000 people are expected to apply for asylum in Norway in 2016. "If we are anywhere near the latter number it could have violent consequences for our welfare society," Listhaug was

quoted as saying by Norwegian news agency NTB. Refugees are entitled to many of the same welfare benefits as Norwegians. The government's proposals met fierce criticism from refugee rights advocates. "It is very serious that politicians are using punitive measures that would make life more difficult for a num-

ber of asylum-seekers who are entitled to protection," Andreas Furuseth, of the Norwegian Organization for Asylum Seekers, told NTB. The coalition government also called for restrictions on who can get refugee status, which comes with more rights and benefits than other forms of protection. □

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## Experience the oldest Aruban industry as a fun daytime outing: The Aruba Aloe Factory & Museum.

Tourists have been visiting the wonderful island of Aruba since the late 1940's, enjoying the pristine beaches, clear waters and Aruba's dynamic nightlife. But one of the most unique experiences you, and your skin, will certainly appreciate for years to come, is visiting the world famous Aruba Aloe Balm Plantation, Factory and Museum. You will learn about the rich history of Aloe Vera, its importance to Aruba's economy, and the healing properties of this miracle plant.

### The Aloe Vera Plant, a brief history.



Aloe Vera's healing properties were discovered centuries ago and it has been used as an ingredient in medications throughout the world by many different cultures ever since. The plant was introduced in Aruba in the mid 1800's, and because of the perfect weather conditions for the plant to grow in; Aruba became one of the largest exporters of Aloe Vera products in the world earning the nickname "Island of Aloe". Aloe has proven to be so important to the local economy that the plant is even shown in the code of arms of Aruba. Aloe Vera nowadays tops the list as one of the most powerful moisturizers and hydrating remedies available and Aruban aloe is known to be the best in the world.



### The Aruba Aloe Balm Factory and Museum Tour:

Founded in 1890, Aruba Aloe Balm is one of the oldest companies in Aruba and the only company that still grows and processes Aloe on the island. By visiting this iconic landmark and plantation, you will learn about the plant's rich history and about how Aruba Aloe makes its world famous skin care products.

During the tour, the super friendly local staff will guide you through the process of how they grow, hand cut and process the products that are sold worldwide. You will also get a guided tour of the museum that serves as a national depository for ancient aloe tools and equipment as well as a complete library on the history, manufacturing and healing qualities of Aloe.

### Laura & Dominio Bucciero, from Napels Italy on their honeymoon:

"First time in Aruba, we are here for our honeymoon and staying for a week. The tour is very interesting, even though I don't perfectly understand English. We have Aloe in Italy but there it's not such good quality as the Aloe here. I have purchased the hand and body lotion because I don't really sunburn but still want very smooth and hydrated skin." If you want to experience this unique and authentic experience come visit us during your stay here on Aruba! The FREE tour & museum are open **Monday thru Friday from 8 am. to 5 pm. and Saturday from 9 am. – 5 pm.** If you are interested in learning more about Aruba Aloe products you can also visit [www.arubaaloe.com](http://www.arubaaloe.com). We hope to see you soon!

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## Amid Cuba opening, Havana quinceanera biz booms



**Daniela Santos Torres, 15, waits in a classic American car with her father Ivan Santos to ride to her quinceanera party in the town of Punta Brava near Havana, Cuba. Daniela left Cuba when she was 3, returning in December for her quinceanera photos and party. She now lives in Glendale, Arizona, where her father runs a home remodeling business. She said returning to Cuba for her celebration was "a dream," allowing her to include her extended family and friends on the island.**  
(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

**C. ARMARIO**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Up a winding flight of stairs at a beachside Havana home, Camila Lopez Rivas lies on the tile floor, smiling mischievously into a video camera circling overhead. Tossed around her are layers of a blue and aqua taffeta dress, the first of nine outfits the 14-year-old will pose in, from colonial ball

gowns to a neon green bikini. Camila lives in Miami, the daughter of a truck driver who left Cuba when she was a baby. She doesn't remember the island, but wanted to return for the photographs and videos that Latin American girls typically take for their 15th birthdays. "I left very young," Camila said between a halt in the

taping. "But I'm from here." Such voyages back to Cuba are becoming increasingly common for girls who find that marking the milestone on the island is both appealing and economical. Cuban reforms permitting small-scale, private businesses and the re-establishment of U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations have encouraged new photo and event planning

businesses for events such as girls' 15th birthdays.

The complicated networks connecting Cubans in Miami and Havana feed the growth: Camila learned about Marbella Studio, the business she hired, from another girl in Florida who had her photos taken there.

Marbella Studios in Guanabo, a 30-minute drive from Havana, is located in an Art Deco-style home and employs 12 photographers, stylists and videographers. There are more than 500 outfits to choose from in three dressing rooms and a calendar full of appointments with clients. Owner Sarah Medina Vigor said about 60 percent of the 500 or so girls her studio photographs each year travel here from other countries, with July and December being the peak months.

Celebrations known as "quinceaneras," marking a girl's 15th birthday and recognizing her transition to womanhood, date back centuries in Latin America. Some vestiges of the older celebrations remain, with Latin American girls performing traditional waltzes. But in Cuba, photographs are the main focus.

Signs for new photo busi-

nesses that document 15th birthdays line the doorways of decrepit Havana buildings and advertisements abound on websites such as Revolico.com, an underground Cuban Craigslist. Many studios are run by former state sector professionals who purchased cameras with the help of U.S. relatives and have found taking pictures far more profitable than the average monthly government salary of \$20.

Alberto Gonzalez, owner of Aladino photo studio, said he saw an equal number of clients from Cuba and abroad over the summer. "This year, more came than any other," he said of the visitors.

But the daughters of workers in Cuba's emerging private sector are also helping fuel business. With the economic reforms, many families on the island now have extra cash to spend for quinceanera celebrations.

They include 14-year-old Dachely Silva, who sat at Aladino one afternoon before a gold-rimmed mirror as a makeup artist layered mascara onto her eyelashes. Her mother, Mayelin Alfonso, recalled posing in just one dress for her own 15th birthday.

Now, her husband has a business driving tourists around in a restored classic American car. Without the business, "we would not be able to afford this," Alfonso said.

Quinceanera packages at most studios start around \$150 and include professional hair and makeup artists, scenic Havana backdrops and multiple wardrobe changes — a bargain compared to similar services in the U.S. that typically start at about \$1,000.

## Central American nations reach Cuban migrant deal

**JAVIER CORDOBA**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)** — Central American nations have reached a deal to let the first of thousands of stranded Cuban migrants continue their journey north toward the United States next month, officials said this week. The humanitarian transfer will airlift an unspecified number of Cubans the first

week of January from Costa Rica to El Salvador, from where they will continue by bus toward Mexico, Costa Rica's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Guatemalan government, which hosted a diplomatic meeting earlier in the day to consider the issue, described it as a "pilot" program and said a work group has been tasked with coordinating logistics.

The two governments did not immediately release further details, citing some nations' desire for discretion on what has become a diplomatic flashpoint between Costa Rica and neighboring Nicaragua. The number of Cubans stranded in Costa Rica has reached at least 8,000 since Nicaragua closed its border to them weeks ago. The islanders say they are

trying to reach the United States, where favorable migratory policies toward Cubans mean nearly all are allowed to stay and apply for residency.

On Sunday, Pope Francis called for their plight to be resolved. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Manuel Gonzalez said the measure will be available only to Cubans who are already in Costa Rica.





## S. Ford Home Furnishings Celebrates 2-Year Anniversary



**ORANJESTAD** - Just a little over 2 years ago Steven Ford opened his S. Ford Furnishings & More store at the Schotlandstraat. It all started 10 years ago when Steven fell in love with Aruba and decided to buy a house on our beautiful island. However, finding the right furniture was quite a challenge, which inspired him to open his own furniture store in 2013. Recently the store has been remod-

eled to provide customers with an expanded product selection.

"We are thrilled to bring our customers an even wider variety of products like custom window treatments, light fixtures, area rugs, mattresses and more" said Steven Ford.

"Whether you need a piece to accent the furnishings you already have or a complete turnkey furniture package, we can do it all". Store manager Gwendolyne Hart said. "We car-



ry a wide variety of styles ranging from classic design, contemporary looks and coastal island, you can find it all in our showroom.

The highest quality furniture manufacturers such as well-known brands like TUI Lifestyle, Mobital, Bassett and Norwalk are part of the upscale range of furniture our store has to offer. We pride ourselves on having the best value and customer service in Aruba, with a dedicated and knowledgeable staff and a commitment to customer

happiness.

You can work with our experienced design staff to create a look that's perfect for your vacation home or a permanent residence in Aruba. We can help you redesign your entire living space, or help you to reinvent your dining room, bedroom, or living room with an elegant, casual, and sophisticated style. Step into our showroom and you will find a collection of quality furnishings & unique accessories unsurpassed on the island." □



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## Through New Year's Eve: Chicago Piano Man Steve Kouba Performing at The Sopranos!

--Chicago piano bar entertainer Steve Kouba is performing in Aruba through New Year's Eve at The Sopranos Piano Bar, located in Arawak Gardens at J.E. Irausquin 368. PALM BEACH - Steve is the

type of wild-eyed creative archetype that this country used to breed in bunches. In today's world of plastic heroes and paper tigers, Kouba looms large over a creative body of work that reaches around the globe, blending tight modern rock style and sensibility with the piano bar tradition. He owns the title 'Jack Of All Trades (Master of None)' and keeps it on full lockdown, using the power of The Song, in all of its forms, to propel him forward in life. He tours. He records. He lives. He loves. He is The Most Interesting Man at the Piano.

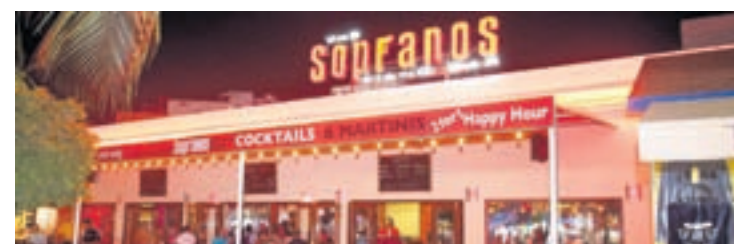
Kouba has logged more than 15 years as a piano man in Chicago's Gold Coast. His first downtown gig was at the old Jay's, on the corner of Walton and State, where he was set up on a piano "so dilapidated it barely passed for furniture," Steve recalls. "You had to work the sustain pedal via its plywood lever in the guts of the piano with your entire leg, accessed through a hole kicked in the frame by some desperate player before I came along." He was an ongoing attraction at the original Underground Wonder Bar, where he held down the legendary Sunday and Monday graveyard shifts (1-4 AM) for years, performing radio rock on a grand piano for Gold Coast nocturnals. The Wonder Bar was where Kouba truly found his magic and mode as a player in the piano game. From there, he began playing all manner of clubs, piano bars, and high-end steakhouses. He can still be seen at the Zebra Lounge - The Zebra, an iconic club that holds the 3rd oldest liquor license in the city, has been voted Best Piano Bar in Chicago. Steve even represented The Zebra on reality television on the truTV series Barmageddon in 2015.



In 2014, Kouba became part owner of the new Zebra Lounge in Memphis, TN, and the bar quickly became popular with lovers of brilliant live music and local service industry personnel. He's performed dueling pianos regularly over the last decade at Sluggers World Class Sports Bar and Dueling Pianos, across from Wrigley Field.

Too big for the Lower 48 to contain, Kouba has taken his act to many piano bars in the Caribbean. He has played in St. Maarten, Barbados and is now playing return engagements on the island of Aruba.

With a 20 year history performing behind a piano and keyboard, Steve Kouba has become one of Chicago's most recognizable entertainers. From piano bars and intimate venues to rock stages, festival crowds, cruise ships and Caribbean piano bars, he navigates an ever-changing world of creative entertainment on a journey that is taking him around the planet and back again. He is a solid performer with the ability to make a crowd listen and laugh in any venue, public or private. He's a self-described 'piano-man-bar-star-vagabond-duck-up-with-a -recording-habit' who is continuing to speed up and spread his word with each unforgettable show. He performs nightly, except Saturdays, from 8pm to 1am. □



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# 2016

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Join us for the best New Year's party on Aruba at Bugaloe this December 31st. Groups of six or more can reserve a place by calling (+297) 586-2233 or emailing us at [info@bugaloe.com](mailto:info@bugaloe.com).

Entrance is free, so bring your friends and get ready to ring in the New Year with a bang! □







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# Rookie Mistake



## McCarron Fumbles OT Snap; Bengals Lose To Broncos

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback AJ McCarron, right, sits on the turf after fumbling the football during overtime of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, in Denver. The Broncos recovered the fumble for the 20-17 win in overtime.

(AP Photo/Jack Dempsey)

**PAT GRAHAM**  
**DENVER (AP)** — The snap slipped right through the hands of AJ McCarron and along with it, any chance Cincinnati had at earning the AFC's top playoff seed. Now, the Bengals need help just to secure a first-round bye, which means

Andy Dalton may not get that extra week to rest his broken right thumb. McCarron could be dinged up, too, after hurting his left wrist trying to recover his fumble on the last play of a 20-17 overtime loss to the Denver Broncos on a frigid Monday night. The young

quarterback couldn't pounce on the ball as DeMarcus Ware ended up with it to finish off the game. "It was my fault. I told the team that," said McCarron, who will have his wrist checked out Tuesday. "I looked up to see the coverage and the snap caught

me by surprise." The Bengals (11-4) still have a shot at a first-round bye, but only if Denver (11-4) loses at home to last-place San Diego (4-11) next weekend. For now, Cincinnati's focus is simply on beating Baltimore in the regular-season finale.

"We knew what we had in front of us, an opportunity to get the bye," said defensive end Carlos Dunlap, who had three sacks. "Now, we're going to move on. We'll learn from our mistakes."

**Continued on page 19**



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## NHL Roundup: Capitals go 8 straight with win over Sabres

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)** — Washington extended its winning streak to eight games by beating Buffalo 2-0 on Monday and moved within a point of Dallas for the overall NHL lead. Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby made 31 saves to help Washington boost its lead in the Metropolitan Division to 12 points over the New York Rangers, who lost at Nashville. Alex Ovechkin scored 19 seconds into the second

period and Jay Beagle scored about 12 minutes later to help the Eastern Conference-leading Capitals improve to 27-6-2; the best start in franchise history. Holtby got his 22nd career shutout and second this season. He leads the NHL with 23 victories and is 15-0-1 in his past 17 games. Sabres forward Evander Kane played for the first time since The Buffalo News reported that police were investigating a sex crime

allegation against him. Minnesota's Mikko Koivu scored twice to lead the Wild past Detroit 3-1. Devan Dubnyk made 28 saves in a surprise appearance. He was expected to miss the game after receiving stitches to his arm after Sunday's practice, but took his place because replacement Darcy Kuemper was a late scratch with an upper-body injury. Charlie Coyle scored while Koivu scored a power-play



**Buffalo Sabres goaltender Linus Ullmark, of Sweden, gets beat for a goal by Washington Capitals Alex Ovechkin during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Monday Dec. 28, 2015 in Buffalo, N.Y.**  
(AP Photo/Gary Wiepert)

goal in the third and added an empty-net tally for Minnesota, which had lost three of four. Pavel Datsyuk scored for the Red Wings. Nashville's James Neal scored twice in a 5-3 win for the Predators against the New York Rangers. Mike Ribeiro had three assists while Filip Forsberg, Craig Smith and Ryan Ellis also scored for the Predators. Jesper Fast, Rick Nash and J.T. Miller netted for

the Rangers. Montreal's Max Pacioretty scored in the third round of the shootout to five the Canadiens a 4-3 win against Tampa Bay, ending a six-game losing streak. Los Angeles' Tyler Toffoli recorded a hat trick to lead the Kings past Vancouver 5-0. Colorado ended a run of 13 successive losses at San Jose by beating the Sharks 6-3. □

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## Richard Gasquet withdraws from Australian Open over back injury

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — World No. 9 Richard Gasquet has withdrawn from the Australian Open because of a back injury. Tournament organizers tweeted news of Gasquet's withdrawal late Tuesday, adding "we wish him a speedy recovery." France's Gasquet is the third withdrawal from the Grand Slam tournament which starts on Jan. 18 at Melbourne Park, after

Juan Monaco and Thanasi Kokkinakis. Britain's Kyle Edmund will take his place in the main draw. Gasquet aggravated the injury while playing in exhibitions this month, and he has also withdrawn from the Qatar Open, due to start on Monday. He is a previous Wimbledon semifinalist and U.S. Open quarterfinalist, and his best Australian Open result was the fourth round, four times. □





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## McCarron Fumbles OT Snap; Bengals Lose To Broncos



Denver Broncos kicker Brandon McManus (8) unsuccessfully attempts a game-winning field goal as punter Britton Colquitt (4) holds during the second half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, in Denver. The missed kick sent the game into overtime.

(AP Photo/Jack Dempsey)

### Continued from page 17

For a half, this game was all Cincinnati, which dominated in yards (204-89), time of possession (21:14 to 8:46) and on the scoreboard (14-3).

But Denver adjusted in the second half, limiting McCarron and the offense to 90 yards, while cranking up the offense under Brock Osweiler, who was making his sixth straight start in place of Peyton Manning. "This one definitely hurts, when you feel like you have a lot of momentum and doing some good

things out there and kind of spit out the bit in the second half," running back Jeremy Hill said. "There were a lot of things we wish we could've had back." Still, the Bengals found themselves in overtime after Denver kicker Brandon McManus shanked a 45-yard field goal attempt at the end of regulation. The Broncos won the coin toss and elected to receive.

They quickly went about their business of driving the ball down the field, even converting a third-and-10 at their 20 when Osweiler found tight end Owen

Daniels for a 12-yard gain. Soon after, Cincinnati linebacker Vontaze Burfict drew an unnecessary roughness penalty when he shoved Virgil Green near the sideline. It was a costly penalty. "That call didn't make us

lose the football game," Dunlap said.

"We shouldn't let them get in that position anyway."

A few plays later and McManus atoned by hitting a 37-yarder.

Then, it was Cincinnati's turn. McCarron was nearly

sacked by Von Miller on the first play, ruled an incomplete pass rather than a fumble.

The next, McCarron took his eye off the snap from Russell Bodine and it was by him. Ware jumped on the ball. Game over. □



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## NBA Roundup:

# Curry's sixth triple double leads Warriors over Kings

**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — Golden State's Stephen Curry overcame a slow start to score 23 points as part of his sixth career triple-double, leading the Warriors to a 122-103 vic-

tory over Sacramento on Monday and its 29th win in 30 games this NBA season. The Warriors improved to 15-0 at home, but that was outdone by San Antonio, which improved to 18-0

on home court by beating Minnesota. While the Western Conference power teams won, it was a different story in the East where division leaders Atlanta and Toronto were



Sacramento Kings' Rajon Rondo, left, guards Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors won 122-103.

(AP Photo/Ben Margot)

both beaten on the road; the Hawks lost at Indiana while Toronto was beaten at Chicago. Golden State's Curry added a career-high 14 rebounds and 10 assists while Klay Thompson scored 29 for the Warriors, who also won their final 18 home games last season to make it 33 in succession over the two campaigns. Omri Casspi scored a career-high 36 points, tying Mike Bibby's team record with nine 3-pointers, for Sacramento but the Kings still lost their 11th straight against their Northern California rivals. San Antonio had six players score in double figures and overcame the ejection of coach Gregg Popovich to beat Minnesota 101-95.

San Antonio joined the 1978 Portland Trail Blazers and 1986 Houston Rockets as the only Western Conference teams to open a season 18-0 at home. Kawhi Leonard had 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Boban Marjanovic filled in ably for the injured Tim Duncan and also scored 17. Popovich was thrown out with 1:13 remaining in the first half on two successive technical fouls following a non-call on LaMarcus Aldridge. Andrew Wiggins led Minnesota with 18 points. Indiana snapped Atlanta's six-game winning streak, as Monta Ellis scored 26 points to lead the Pacers to a 93-87 win. □

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## 'Like a parachute': Innerhofer battles gate in wild downhill



France's Adrien Theaux speeds down the course during a men's World Cup downhill in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015.

**ANDREW DAMPF**  
AP Sports Writer

**SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy (AP)** — With Bode Miller taking this season off, Christof Innerhofer has taken over the reigns of the World Cup circuit's most daring skier.

In a wild downhill that Adrien Theaux won by a large margin Tuesday, Innerhofer grabbed most of the attention by finishing fourth after skiing halfway

down the course with a gate attached to him.

About a minute into his run, the Italian got his left arm wrapped around a gate and the bright fluorescent orange panel and long pole caught onto his equipment.

After about 30 seconds, Innerhofer rid himself of the pole but he carried the panel to the finish at speeds above 120 kph (75 mph) — earning the Italian

loud cheers from the home crowd.

"Bode Miller's no longer around so there needs to be another crazy guy," Innerhofer said. "It was really at the limit and very dangerous. I couldn't see and I was carrying the pole and the panel. ... It felt like a parachute behind me."

Theaux won in 1 minute, 47.29 seconds on the dark and steep Deborah Compagnoni course for a

1.04-second advantage over Hannes Reichelt of Austria. It was the Frenchman's third career win.

David Poisson of France came third, 1.15 behind — the first podium result in the 33-year-old's World Cup career.

Innerhofer missed the podium by just 0.07 and Aksel Lund Svindal finished seventh, ending his run of three straight downhill wins. "This is not my style of downhill," Svindal said. "This is Innerhofer's style."

Still, the Norwegian reclaimed the overall World Cup lead from Marcel Hirscher, who doesn't race downhill. Svindal moved 15 points ahead of his Austrian rival in the overall and maintained his lead in the downhill standings.

International Ski Federation technical operations manager Mike Kertesz explained that the gates contain one fixed pole and one that is designed to release in case of contact.

"Probably what happened is the gate panel came off the fixed pole but the outside of the two poles isn't fixed so it came with it," Kertesz said. "It's made to

release and not wreck the athlete."

Either way, there was no stopping Innerhofer.

"What he did today was unbelievable — going 145 kph with his goggles covering his eyes," Svindal said. "I wouldn't have finished fourth — there's no way. That was ridiculous."

Ten of the 56 starters didn't make it to the finish, including several racers who lost a ski on the challenging course. Of the first six racers, only three completed their runs.

Defending champion Travis Ganong of the United States finished 17th.

"It's really difficult and you had to have the legs," Theaux said. "I just tried to ski relaxed. If you push too much you go off line and break your legs. I like this kind of course where it's difficult and there are a lot of turns. The difficult part is you don't see anything."

Poisson took the bronze medal in downhill at the 2013 world championships but had never had success on the regular World Cup circuit. "This is a big result for me," he said. "It was a long time." □

## Hansdotter edges Holdener to win women's World Cup slalom

**LIENZ, Austria (AP)** — Frida Hansdotter held on to her first-run lead to win a women's World Cup slalom on Tuesday, making her the main candidate to take over the discipline title from the injured Mikaela Shiffrin.

The Swede's third career win helped extend her lead in the discipline standings to 100 points over Petra Vlhova of Slovakia. She is the only skier to reach the podium in all four slaloms this season. Hansdotter finished in a

combined time of 1 minute, 47.02 seconds on the Schlossberg course to edge Wendy Holdener of Switzerland by 0.07. Vlhova, who won the previous slalom in Are, Sweden, two weeks ago, posted the fastest second-run time and finished 0.43 behind in third.

Michaela Kirchgasser of Austria, who was 0.39 back in third after the opening leg, failed to finish her final run.

"It was a really nice race today," Hansdotter said. "I

had a solid first run but I felt I had more to give."

Carrying a slim 0.11-second lead into her second run, Hansdotter avoided mistakes and lost just four-hundredths of her advantage, denying Holdener a first World Cup slalom victory for a Swiss female skier in 13 years.

"It was amazing," said Hansdotter, who raised both arms in celebration after crossing the finish. "I knew it was close. In the upper part I had the feeling it was good but on the

steep part I struggled a bit."

Although it was only her third win and first of the season, the slalom specialist is one of the most consistent performers on the circuit with 19 podium finishes. She came runner-up in 14 slalom races, a women's World Cup record she shares with Swedish great Pernilla Wiberg.

Seven times Hansdotter came second to Shiffrin, who also beat the Swede to retain her world title last February.

The Olympic champion from the United States, who won the World Cup slalom title the past three years and also took the first two races this season, is out for an indefinite time after hurting her right knee in a warmup crash for the Dec. 12 giant slalom in Are. The women's World Cup continues with another slalom in Santa Caterina, Italy, next Tuesday. That race has been moved from Zagreb because of a lack of snow in the Croatian resort. □



## Lighting the Year

In the middle of the Holiday season, there is always so much activity and personal business to attend to that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating. Over the years and by many different religions the holiday season which includes among it,



the winter solstice on the Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Dawali, the Hindu Festival of Light, Hanukkah, and Christmas, has been celebrated in many ways. However, the worldwide message, no matter what the religion, is about bringing light and hope, from darkness and ignorance. This is reflected today in our elaborate and bright holiday trimmings.

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ter depends upon serving ourselves, community, visitors and patients fully and beyond their expectations. All of us at the Viana Natural Healing Center NV are committed to providing you with a high-quality natural health care choice, based on continuing scientific study, proven natural therapies and integrative health partnerships through our truly holistic protocol, Biocompatible Medicine. In the coming year, we welcome the opportunity to bring even more light to all who seek in their quest for higher levels of physical, mental and emotional vitality.

Thank you to all of our readers, listeners and patients for your confidence in our ability to serve you. We wish you all a safe, healthy Holiday Season and may the Healing Spirit Bless you in the coming New Year.

- Carlos M Viana, O.M.D., Ph. D., C.N.N.

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CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Ag-



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## Dream of being a bird? Flight simulator can bring you close



Carrie Fitzsimmons begins her first flight aboard Birdly, a virtual reality flying machine, at Le Laboratoire Cambridge in Cambridge, Mass. The simulator looks like a futuristic examining table where users lie on their bellies and spread their arms like wings. Using virtual reality goggles, they get a bird's eye view of New York City. By rotating their hands and flapping their arms, they navigate the skyline.

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

**COLLIN BINKLEY**  
Associated Press

**CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP)** — With a few flaps of his arms, Kip Fenton soared into the New York City skyline, veering around a sea of skyscrapers as the wind whistled in his ears. Then, all too soon, the goggles came off and he was back in a bright white room near Boston, no longer a bird but a 59-year-old software developer in blue jeans and a green plaid shirt. Outside a tall window, a man with a cellphone stopped to snap a photo of Fenton and the odd contraption that had given him the sense of flight. "I've always wanted to fly," said Fenton. "It's sort of one of those fantasy things where, if I could be an animal, I would be a bird." The human fascination with flight is what inspired Max Rheiner, a Swiss artist and scholar, to invent the flight simulator that Fenton tested on Thursday. Called Birdly, the prototype is being exhibited through

Saturday at Le Laboratoire, a small art and design center tucked in Cambridge's sprawling technology hub. "Birdly is actually the dream of flying come true," said Rheiner, who has been taking his invention around the world since the summer of 2014. It looks like a futuristic examination table with wings. Users climb on, belly down, and stretch their arms out to either side, resting

their palms flat against tilting boards that act as the flight feathers. After they slip on a set of headphones and virtual reality goggles, the machine tilts forward to bring their legs farther off the ground. Suddenly, the goggles fill up with a bird's eye view of Manhattan and everything is moving. During his test run, Fenton rotated his palms upward to climb

toward the sky, the whole machine tilting his body upward, and then he reversed the motion to take a downward dive. To speed up, he flapped his long arms over and over.

The whole time, a nearby fan rustled his hair, and the sound of wind whirled in the headphones. When he turned his head, he had a sweeping view of the entire horizon.

"That was great. I loved it," he said afterward. "The turning and the diving was all pretty straightforward." Because there's no way to know how a bird feels in flight, Rheiner and his team tried to replicate human dreams of flying.

"People who have dreams about flying, they can just fly without training and

they have great feelings," he said. "We tried to model this experience like those dreams."

They aimed to make the maneuvers as intuitive as possible. After a couple minutes, most people pick it up naturally, Rheiner said. On the exhibit's recent opening day, more than 100 visitors lined up to spend a few minutes trying the simulator. Since then, organizers have had to take appointments. Many give rave reviews, but some found it jarring. Carrie Fitzsimmons, the art center's executive director, hopped off the simulator when it gave her vertigo.

After more than a year, the Birdly team is winding down its tour and ramping up its company. □

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## Pep Boys heads for new highs on latest offer from Icahn

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Shares of Pep Boys are heading for their highest point in eight years after the company received yet another offer from activist investor Carl Icahn, putting the deal in the neighborhood of \$1 billion.

Shares of the auto parts and services retailer have been ratcheting steadily higher over the past two months as a takeover bid

from Japanese tiremaker Bridgestone turned into a fight for control with Icahn, who boosted his bid for the Philadelphia auto chain on Monday to \$18.50 a share in cash. That's up \$2 per share from Icahn's earlier bid and its \$1.50 better than the latest from Bridgestone Corp. The initial offer from Bridgestone was for \$15 per share. Rumors of a sale rose more than two years ago with

the exit of CEO Mike Odell and the arrival of three new board members who were nominated by a huge stakeholder in the company. The company's tire business has been under pressure and it has sought new ways to generate cash. Shares have jumped 78 percent from this time last year and are up 6 percent in premarket trading Tuesday and investors are wait-

ing for more action from Bridgestone. About an hour before the opening bell, shares were hitting levels not seen since the middle of 2007.

The fight over Pep Boys is a small part of an unprecedented year in mergers and acquisitions. The value of buyouts proposed and completed this year has reached a staggering \$5.03 trillion, up 37 percent

from just last year, according to Dealogic.

It is the first time that takeovers have exceeded the \$5 trillion level, fueled by extremely low interest rates. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade less than two weeks ago.

Pep Boys has about 800 outlets selling auto parts and offering vehicle maintenance. □

## American home prices climb, helped by solid job market



A sign indicates a site has been sold in a new home development in Nashville, Tenn. Steady job growth, low mortgage rates and tight inventories helped fuel rising U.S. home prices in October, according to a report released Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

**JOSH BOAK**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Steady job growth, low mortgage rates and tight inventories helped fuel rising U.S. home prices in October.

The Standard & Poor's/

Case-Shiller 20-city home price index rose 5.5 percent in the 12 months ending in October, up from a 5.4 percent pace in September, according to a report released Tuesday.

Home values have climbed at a roughly 5 percent

pace during much of 2015, as strong hiring has bolstered a real estate market still recovering from a housing bust that triggered a recession eight years ago. Home sales have increased this year as the 5 percent unemployment rate has

strengthened confidence in the economy.

"The U.S. housing market as a whole made great progress in 2015, as the big and occasionally volatile bounce off the bottom we experienced from 2012 through 2014 gave way to a more stable and sustainable environment," said Svenja Gudell, chief economist at the real estate firm Zillow.

Rising demand, however, hasn't been met with an increase in sales listings, causing prices to rise much faster than inflation or wages this year. This could limit the number of first-time buyers coming into the market next year. Still, many buyers are also benefiting from 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaging less than 4 percent, making it cheaper to borrow for a home. Mortgage rates have historically been closer to 6 percent. Borrowing costs are expected to rise shortly after the Federal Reserve this month raised a key short-term interest rate for the first time in nearly a decade. Yet the federal funds

rate — what banks charge each other to lend overnight — remains low at 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent, such that mortgage rates are unlikely to return to their historic averages.

When the Fed previously hiked this rate from 1 percent to 5.25 percent through the middle of 2007, mortgage rates increased a mere 0.75 points.

"These data suggest that potential homebuyers need not fear runaway mortgage interest rates," said David Blitzer, chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones.

But the gains have been uneven. San Francisco, Denver and Portland, Oregon led with reported increases of 10.9 percent over the past year. Prices in Chicago and Washington, District of Columbia rose less than 2 percent. The 20-city index remains 11.5 percent below its peak in July 2006, with metro areas such as Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis and Tampa still significantly below their pre-recession highs. □

## Healthy job market lifts consumer confidence in December

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A stronger job market lifted consumer confidence in December, a business group said Tuesday. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose to 96.5 this month from November's revised 92.6. Americans were more optimistic about current conditions and about the future.

"As 2015 draws to a close,

consumers' assessment of the current state of the economy remains positive, particularly their assessment of the job market," said Lynn Franco, the group's director of economic indicators. More than two-thirds of consumers said they expected interest rates to rise over the next year, highest share since August 2013. On Dec. 16, the Federal Reserve raised the short-term inter-

est rate it controls for the first time since 2006.

Hiring has been healthy in 2015. Employers are adding an average of 210,000 jobs a month through November. Unemployment has stayed at a seven-year low 5 percent for two straight months. Confidence had dipped unexpectedly in November and this month remained below readings around 100 from August through October.

"U.S. consumers regained a bit of their swagger in December," Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a research report. She noted that confidence rebounded the most among young households (those headed by someone younger than 35), potentially a sign that more first-time homebuyers are ready to enter the housing market.

Another gauge of Ameri-

cans' mood — the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index — rose this month to the highest level since July. The Michigan index rose to 92.6 in December from 91.3 last month. It has averaged 92.9 in 2015, the highest annual average in 11 years. The Michigan survey finds that Americans are pleased with low inflation, including low gasoline prices, which boosts their purchasing power. □



## AP: Amazon holiday shipping, Christmas deliveries set record

**LINDA A. JOHNSON**  
AP Business Writer  
TRENTON, N.J. (AP) —

Online retailer Amazon has been a prime beneficiary of more consumers doing their holiday shopping online and procrastinating. Amazon Prime, the company's \$99-a-year loyalty program that includes unlimited free two-day shipping, gained 3 million new members in the third week of December alone. Meanwhile, the number of Prime members shopping via mobile more than doubled this holiday season, Amazon said this week. Christmas Eve was the biggest day yet for deliveries by the company's Prime Now service, which now offers free two-hour delivery to more than 20 metropolitan areas. When Prime Now launched last year, it only delivered within Manhattan.

Seattle-based Amazon also said it shipped a record number of items worldwide for the holidays, with items going to 185 countries.

The 20-year-old company is profiting from major trends reshaping holiday shopping in the U.S.

More and more people do part or even all of their shopping online, increasingly using mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones to "window shop" and then buy items from their couch or their desk at work. Retailers are deluging consumers with e-mail offers for online-only deals. And procrastinators, once stuck dealing with huge crowds at shopping malls and big-box stores right before Christmas, now can do last-minute shopping online. Amazon and some other retailers promised that items ordered as late as the morning of Christmas Eve would arrive by midnight.

Amazon said nearly 70 percent of its customers this holiday used a mobile device to shop. Worldwide, on Cyber Monday alone, those customers ordered more than 35 electronic items per second and Adele's new CD, "25," every 3 seconds. □

# Fitbit likely a hot seller for Christmas holiday

**JOSEPH PISANI**  
AP Business News  
NEW YORK (AP) —

It was a very merry Christmas for fitness-tracking device maker Fitbit.

The company's app was the most downloaded on Apple's app store Christmas Day, a sign that many people couldn't wait to set up their Fitbit trackers after unwrapping them. It also suggests that Fitbit trackers were a hot seller during the holidays, despite increasing competition from Apple's smartwatch and other wearable devices. Investors were pleased, sending shares of the San Francisco company higher this week. The Fitbit app topped Apple's app store in the U.S. on Christmas Day and the day after, according to App Annie, which tracks app downloads and rankings. That's far better than last year when the Fitbit app ranked at No. 18 on Christmas Day and No. 15 the day after, according to research from Raymond James & Associates. In a note to clients, Raymond James analyst Tavis McCourt called the numbers "impressive."

Fitbit declined to comment Monday. Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

While app downloads don't necessarily mean a tracker was sold, McCourt said it's a "good measure of relative sales success."

Retailers confirmed Monday that Fitbit trackers were in high demand during the holiday shopping season.

Macy's Inc. said the Fitbit's products sold "very well" at the department store. Discount retailer Target Corp. said the trackers were one of its top-selling electronics during the holiday season. And Amazon.com Inc. said

Amanda Hetherington opened a Fitbit Flex on Christmas Eve, a gift from her son, and plans to buy more.

Hetherington, who says she is working on getting back into shape, downloaded

Fitbit sells several different devices that track user's steps, calories or sleep patterns. They cost as little as \$60 for a tracker that clips to clothing to about \$250 for a watch. The company has already sold more than



Fitbit CEO James Park shows off one of his devices as he poses for photos outside the New York Stock Exchange, before his company's IPO. The company's app was the most downloaded on Apple Inc.'s app store on Christmas Day 2015, a sign that many people set up their Fitbit trackers after unwrapping them.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the Fitbit Charge was one of its most popular items for customers that used its same-day delivery service in Chicago, Dallas, New York and other major cities. App downloads could also lead to future sales. Users who track their health information on the app are more likely to buy another Fitbit device when they want to upgrade, said Ross Rubin, the senior director of industry analysis at App Annie.

the app on Christmas Day. Besides steps, she also plans to track what she eats and how much water she drinks with the app.

She's already making changes: This weekend she parked further away from a restaurant to get in more steps.

"I love it so much," said Hetherington, who lives near Columbia, South Carolina, "I'll probably get one for my husband for Valentine's Day."

13 million devices so far this year before the holiday shopping season, surpassing the 10.9 million total devices it sold last year.

But like a new gym membership, there is still the question of how long people will remain dedicated to their fitness trackers once the novelty wears off. Research firm Endeavour Partners estimated earlier this year that about a third of trackers get abandoned after six months. □

## Whole Foods to pay \$500K to settle overcharging case

**NEW YORK (AP) —** Whole Foods said Monday it will pay New York City \$500,000 to settle allegations it overcharged customers for pre-packaged foods.

The city's Department of Consumer Affairs said the settlement also requires Whole Foods Market Inc. to conduct quarterly audits to ensure products are accurately weighed and labeled.

The city had said in June that its investigation tested 80 different types of pre-

packaged food at Whole Foods and found mislabeled weights on every one. The overcharging included \$4.85 for a package of chicken tenders and \$14.84 for coconut shrimp, the city said.

The investigation generated national headlines, prompting Whole Foods co-CEOs John Mackey and Walter Robb to apologize in an online video. Still, Whole Foods said the bad publicity ended up pinching sales.

Mackey had previously expressed bewilderment over why "Whole Foods was singled out for this attention," saying that he doesn't think the company's track record on the matter is any different from other supermarkets.

The grocery chain had nevertheless said over the summer that it would take steps to prevent overcharging, including training for workers, and pledged to give away products if customers discovered they were mis-

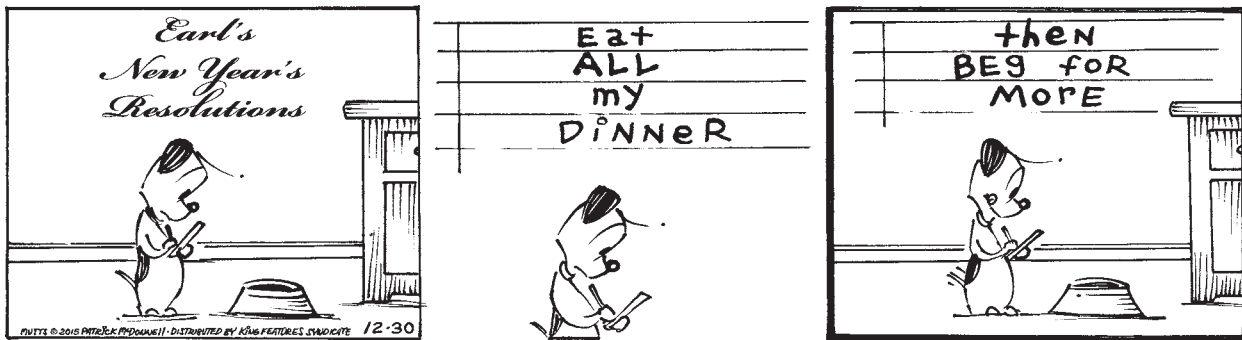
priced.

Whole Foods has already put in place third-party audits to ensure pricing accuracy, spokesman Michael Silverman said in an emailed statement.

Whole Foods refused to consider the city's initial demand for \$1.5 million, but it agreed to the \$500,000 settlement to "put this issue behind us," Silverman said. The Department of Consumer Affairs said the money will go into the city's budget. □



## Mutts



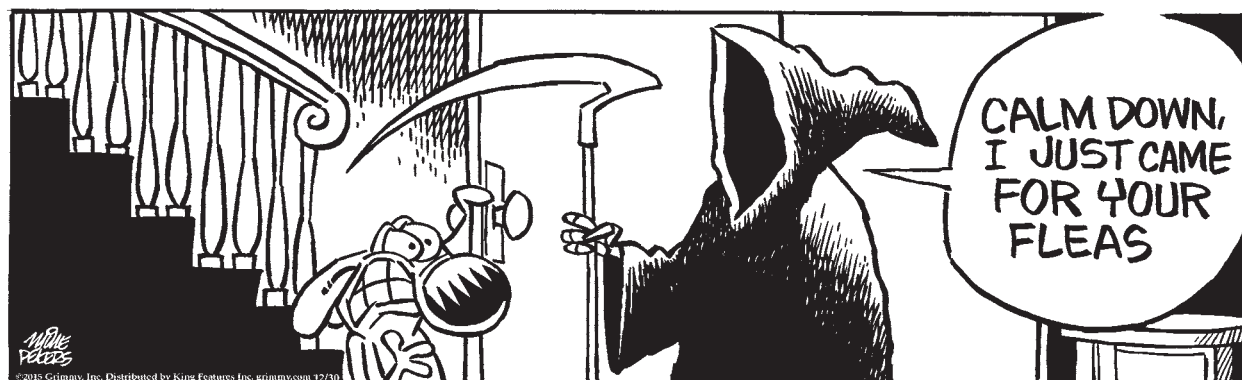
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



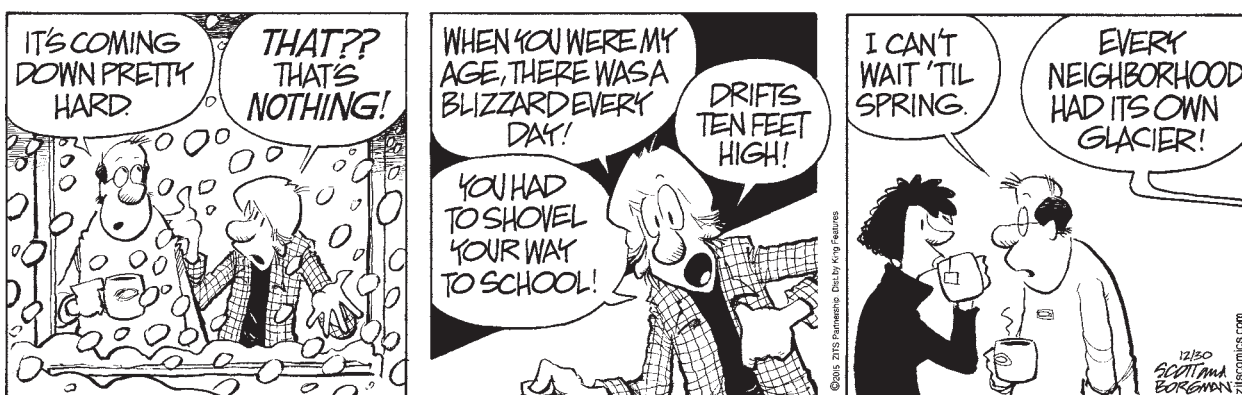
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

				3				
			1	9	6		8	3
9		1				5		7
6		4				8		1
1	2						7	4
	9						2	
		7				9		
		3	4		9	1		
			6	5	2			

Difficulty Level ★★

12/30

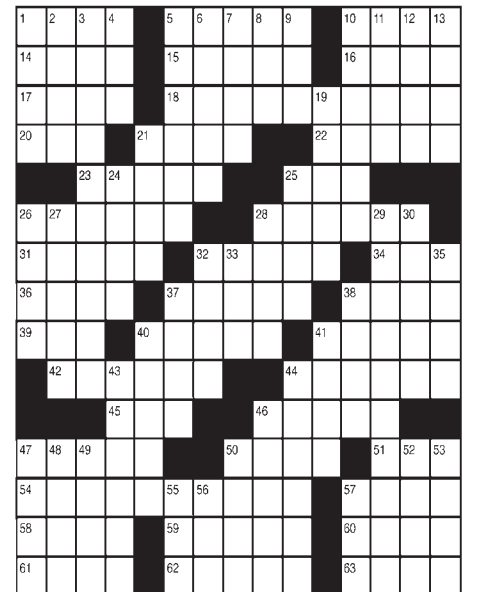
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	4	9	5	8	3	6	1	7
7	3	8	2	1	6	4	5	9
5	1	6	9	4	7	8	3	2
6	2	5	1	3	4	9	7	8
4	9	3	7	5	8	2	6	1
1	8	7	6	2	9	5	4	3
3	7	2	4	9	5	1	8	6
8	5	1	3	6	2	7	9	4
9	6	4	8	7	1	3	2	5

## ACROSS

- Japanese wrestling form
- Relocates
- dunk; sure thing
- Candid
- Spry
- Too good — true
- A la —; topped with ice cream
- Disloyal
- At the — of the day; ultimately
- Sword fight
- Breath fresheners
- Fib tellers
- Nov. follower
- Slender
- Talked wildly
- Walkway
- Door handles
- Vigor
- Pasture cries
- Daring deeds
- Long sandwich
- Common street name
- USNA freshman
- Major river in central Africa
- Antenna
- Good-natured joking
- Big game
- 3-line poem
- Pod used to make chocolate
- "Free"; film about a lioness
- Performance
- Intense joy
- Depressed
- "The Farmer in the —"
- Window covering
- Sandwiches, for short
- Notice
- Impudent
- Fluid-filled sac



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/30/15

## DOWN

- Partial amount
- Come —; find
- Interfering
- Afternoon hour
- Ripen
- Monsters
- Lab bottle
- Actor Wallach
- up; arrange
- No-nonsense
- Fool
- Border on
- Clutter
- Foreboding signs
- Desert fruit
- Misfortunes
- Small amounts
- Identical
- Stringed instrument
- Learn by —; memorize
- In the long run
- Funeral hymn
- over; faint
- Capture
- Secure with an anchor
- Harsh criticism

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ENDS	OSCAR	TOFU
LOUT	ALAMO	ODES
MOPE	TABBY	ROTE
SKETCHY	LABORER	
SRS	HELEN	
ALLOY	FAD	ATILT
FLAN	OIL	BROGUE
TAG	ANXIOUS	LAS
EMERGE	BAT	TOUT
RARER	AUK	CROSS
LEAST	FOE	
SCREENS	PAYABLE	
CLAN	KABUL	DUAL
AUNT	LIONS	LOCK
METS	ELATE	EYES

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12/30/15

- Sound the horn
- Aviator
- Abel's brother
- Truly
- Rubble of
- Bedrock
- Hula —; toys that are twirled
- Relinquish
- Chopping tools
- Actor Robert
- Prejudice; slant
- Incisions
- SAT, for one
- Commercial
- "...la, la..."
- Brit's network



# Classifieds

## Time Share For Sale by Owner Divi Golf

week 51, x-mas wk,  
unit 4206, 2 rm  
suite, lock off master. sleep 4, 2  
baths, elegant furnishing, granite  
kitchen, washer dryer, steps to  
priced below market, \$5900 26  
wks left on contract, equity value  
\$13,500  
[rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
Phone: 508 651 0016

204201

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE RENAISSANCE

Week	room	price
wk 38	room 529	\$4,750
wk 40	room 336	\$3,750
wk 40	room 105	\$5,000
wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 50	room 546	\$6,000
wk 49	room 2571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
wk 21 or 22	room 347	\$4,000
wk 1or2	room 517	\$9,500 each
wk 1or2	room 117	\$7,000 each

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
vr.realty@mac.com

203667

## Time -Share for sale by owner Marriott Surf Club

week #51 plat plus  
2 br, ocean view \$39,000  
Allan (Owner)  
Call. 917 445 0077  
[allan@ratafia.com](mailto:allan@ratafia.com)

204239



## Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

1 bedroom Gold O.V. Price :\$7000  
1Bedroom Gold O.F. Price :\$8500  
2Bedroom Gold O.V. Price :\$9500  
2 Bedroom Gold O.F. Price:\$14500  
1 Bedroom Platinum O.V.  
Price:\$12000  
2 Bedroom Platinum O.V.  
Price:\$18000  
2 Bedroom Platinum O.F.  
Price: \$30000  
more info call:(297) 630-1307  
[info@arubatimetravel.com](mailto:info@arubatimetravel.com)  
[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204212

## FOR RENT

Costa Linda  
2 bedroom lock out January 1-8th  
\$1050  
Contact David unit 5021 from  
December 25 or  
[mwallmitch@gmail.com](mailto:mwallmitch@gmail.com)

204247

## FOR RENT

week 52 \$2,000 1bdr  
week 2 \$1,400 ST  
week 3 \$1,400 ST  
at Divi Link's  
Call: 730 2151

204248

## Time Share For Sale/ Rent Tropicana

week 3, 1/17/16 2 Queen beds,  
couch rent \$860 buy \$2075  
check in date can be changed for  
a fee and La Quinta special sale  
unit 2304, 1 br, 12/12 \$1675 or  
best offer  
[rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
Phone: 508 651 0016

204234



## FOR SALE

### Condo in Gold Coast

Everything's included in this  
2 Br 2 1/2 bath unit check it  
out now at  
[www.arubarental.info](http://www.arubarental.info)  
or call 562-0735 free pick up

204217

## Time Share Resale

### Marriott Aruba Surf Club

2 BR,O.F.Plat.Plus WK 51&52  
Price:\$150,000  
2 BR ,O.V Plat Plus WK 51  
Price:\$46000  
2 BR ,O.V.Plat Plus WK 52  
Price:\$54000  
2 BR ,O.V. Plat.\$16000,2BR,O.S.  
Plat,\$17500  
2BR,O.F.Plat.\$27000,3BR,O.V.  
Plat,\$29000  
2BR,G.V.Plat\$15000  
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[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204250

## Time Share Resale

### Marriott Ocean Club

1Bedroom O.V. Price:\$11,000  
2Bedroom O.V. Price:\$17,500  
2Bedroom O.F. Price :\$29,000  
More Info Call:(297)630-1307  
[info@arubatimetravel.com](mailto:info@arubatimetravel.com)  
[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204250

## Time share Resale

### Tropicana Resorts

3 Bedroom week 51&52 Room  
#2548  
Renovated Room, Check in Sunday.  
Price:\$40,000 both weeks  
Renaissance Suites  
1Bedroom week51 Room#2548  
Harbor and Ocean View Price:\$8500  
More Info Call:(297)630-1307  
[info@arubatimetravel.com](mailto:info@arubatimetravel.com)  
[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204250

## Time Share Resale

### 2 Bedroom week1&3 Room #751/752

31 weeks remain on the contract  
Price:\$22,000 each  
Studio WK 1 RM #1304  
35 weeks remain on the contract  
Price:\$8000  
1Bedroom 1 1/2 Bath WK 2 RM#605  
32 weeks remain on the contract,  
Price:\$9500  
More Info Call:(297)630-1307  
[info@arubatimetravel.com](mailto:info@arubatimetravel.com)  
[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204250

## Time Share Resale

### Divi Links Golf

2 Bedroom WK 2 RM#2317/2318  
32 week remain on the contract  
Price:\$15,000  
Paradise Beach Villas  
1 BR WK 2 RM#322 P.O.V.  
1 BR WK 3 RM#324 P.O.V.  
Price:\$8500 each  
More info Call:(297)630-1307  
[info@arubatimetravel.com](mailto:info@arubatimetravel.com)  
[www.arubatimetravel.com](http://www.arubatimetravel.com)

204250

## For Sale

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1 Towhouse 2 floors, 2 bath  
2 bedrooms. Pools. Security  
**Sunset Residences**  
1 apartment 2 bedrooms,  
2 baths, Social area, pool  
For info call 594-1496

204245



## Marriott Aruba Surf Club

**PLATINUM Season**  
Oceanview \$16K  
Oceanside \$17.500  
Oceanfront \$27.500  
3 BEDRM OV \$29K

Plat. Plus Holiday week 51  
\$46K  
Plat. Plus NY 52 ov \$54K

**GOLD Season**  
Oceanside \$9.900  
Oceanview \$9K  
Oceanfront \$16K  
3 BEDRM OV \$17K

## Marriott Aruba Ocean club

**GOLD Season**  
2B Ocean view \$9K  
2B Oceanfront \$16.500  
1B Oceanfront \$8.500

**PLATINUM Season**  
2B oceanview \$18.500  
2B Oceanfront \$29K  
1B Oceanview \$11.500  
\*\*Destination points  
available between \$7.5 and  
\$9. per point.

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NOORD	527-3200
STA. CRUZ	527-2900
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
POLICE TIPLINE	11141
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
DENTAL CLINIC	587-9850
AMBULANCE	582-1234
CENTRO MEDICO	523-8833

## PHARMACY

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San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

INFORMATION	118
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

## CRUISESHIP



**December 30**  
Coral Princess  
Zenith  
Monarch

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Aruba Airlines	583-8300
Jet Blue	588-2244
Surinam	582-7896
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

Aruba Foundation  
For those Visually Incapacitated

Tel: 582-5051

## FUNDACION

Anti-Droga  
Aruba  
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## FUNDACION

Respetami  
Tel: 582-4433  
Centro Diabetic Arubano  
Tel: 524-8888

## Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

## QUOTA Club

Tel: 525-2672

## Women in Difficulties Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba  
Tel: 587-0002

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Calls from USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095 (toll free)  
Calls from The Netherlands: 085-009-0218 (toll free)  
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba  
[Email: quality@setarnet.aw](mailto:Email:quality@setarnet.aw)  
Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)



## AP Interview: Climate deal caps a long quest for UN chief



**U.N. Secretary General Ban K-moon addresses the media during his year-end news conference at United Nations headquarters. In early December, the Secretary General saw the adoption of a first-of-its kind agreement signed by 200 countries to curb greenhouse gasses. Climate change was one of the Secretary General's top three priorities while seeking office.**

(Amanda Voisard/The UN via AP)

**EDITH M. LEDERER**  
**Associated Press**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — When international negotiators reached a first-of-its kind climate change agreement in Paris this month, the United Nations' normally low-key leader, Ban Ki-moon, celebrated

onstage, arms raised in victory and more exuberant than many had ever seen him before.

Nearly nine years had passed since, in his first days as secretary-general, Ban surprised world leaders by making global warming a top item on his agenda.

Now, on the eve of his final year in office, the cheers in Paris marked the culmination of his nonstop campaign, pressed with world leaders at summit after summit and in locales including melting glaciers and islands at risk of disappearing.

It was an emotional moment, and looking back at the road to Paris in an interview with The Associated Press, Ban paid tribute to many people, including the leaders of the United States, China, India and France. He also spoke proudly of his own role. No other leader in the world "has been raising, without fail, all the time, climate change," Ban said. "I have spent real passion ... and most of my time and energy on this issue."

It was quite a shift for the former South Korean foreign minister, whose main focus before becoming the eighth U.N. secretary-general in 2007 was his country's standoff with

North Korea.

Ban traced his interest in climate change to his year-long campaign to lead the United Nations, which took him to many countries and broadened his vision of global issues.

Two weeks before he was sworn in as secretary-general, Ban told Tim Wirth, then president of the United Nations Foundation, that one of his two highest priorities would be climate change, along with empowering women.

"You could have blown me away," Wirth said of Ban's choice of tackling global warming. "He had a deep commitment then, and he has stayed with it, and stayed with it, and stayed with it."

At the time, climate change was not a popular topic.

The 1997 Kyoto treaty, which required only rich countries to limit emissions blamed for global warming, was set to expire in 2012. Negotiations on a new agreement had almost collapsed, Ban said.

"I thought that I needed to revive this one," he said.

His first high-level meeting as U.N. chief was with then-President George W. Bush. The original agenda for their January 2007 meeting didn't include climate change, Ban said, and Bush "seemed to be a little bit surprised" when he raised it. Undeterred, Ban decided to hold the first-ever climate change summit at the United Nations in July 2007.

He invited Bush and told him that the success of the summit would depend on his participation. Bush came, though he didn't address the summit.

That connection paid off at a U.N. conference in Bali

in December 2007.

The United States, the lone major industrial nation to reject Kyoto, was opposing India's proposal to strengthen requirements for richer nations to help poorer countries with technology to limit emissions. In one of the most memorable moments in climate change diplomacy, tiny Papua New Guinea implored America to lead or get out of the way.

An isolated United States capitulated, and the first roadmap for addressing climate change was adopted.

"Miraculously, I was able to save this one, but I didn't know why," Ban said.

In early 2009, he finally found out.

Ban and his wife were invited to dinner at the White House in the last days of the Bush presidency. Bush told the U.N. chief that when the Bali meeting reached a difficult moment, he got a call from the head of the U.S. delegation asking for instructions. Ban said Bush told him: "Suddenly, you came to my mind. Then I told the delegation head, 'Do what the secretary-general of the U.N. wants to do,'."

The secretary-general said he still feels "very much grateful" to Bush.

"That was the beginning of our success," Ban said.

But then came the disappointment of the 2009 Copenhagen climate change negotiations.

In Copenhagen, a newly elected President Barack Obama showed "great commitment," even working on proposed global text from his laptop, Ban said. But there were too many differences and negotiations ended with no agreement. □



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# Motorhead frontman, rock icon 'Lemmy' Kilmister dead at 70

SANDY COHEN  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Lanky and long-haired, with mutton chops and moles, Ian "Lemmy" Kilmister looked and lived like a hard-rock hero. He founded Motorhead in 1975, and continued recording and touring with the band until his death.

He began every legendary live show with the announcement, "We are Motorhead, and we play rock and roll!"

The singer and bassist died Monday at age 70 after a brief battle with aggressive cancer, said his agent Andrew Goodfriend. Kilmister had learned of the diagnosis just two days earlier, according to a statement from the band, and he had also suffered several other health issues in recent months.

"We cannot begin to express our shock and sadness, there aren't words," the band said in announcing the death on its Facebook page. "Play Motorhead loud, play Hawkwind loud, play Lemmy's music LOUD. Have a drink or few. Share stories. Celebrate the LIFE this lovely, wonderful man celebrated so vibrantly himself. HE WOULD WANT EXACTLY THAT."

Born on Christmas Eve, 1945, in Staffordshire, England, Kilmister was deeply respected and revered as a rock master and innovator, from his time with the seminal psychedelic band Hawkwind in the early 1970s to his four decades in Motorhead, best known

for the 1980 anthem "Ace of Spades." The band won a Grammy for 2004's best metal performance. Ozzy Osbourne called him "one of my best friends."

"He will be sadly missed," Osbourne wrote on Twitter late Monday. "He was a warrior and a legend. I will see you on the other side." Metallica tweeted: "Lemmy, you are one of the primary reasons this band exists. We're forever grateful for all of your inspiration."

And numerous other rock musicians took to social media to pay tribute, including Queen guitarist Brian May, Black Sabbath's Geezer Butler, Nikki Sixx of Motley Crue and Aerosmith drummer Joey Kramer, who tweeted, "RIP #Lemmy heaven is Rock in tonight." In a Tuesday statement, Alice Cooper said Kilmister was "one of the most beloved characters in rock'n roll. I can't think of anyone who didn't adore Lemmy; you can't say 'heavy metal' without mentioning Lemmy." The Recording Academy also noted the loss to the music industry, calling Kilmister "a remarkable frontman and bona fide heavy metal icon."

"His magnetic stage presence and willingness to break barriers propelled the metal genre to new heights, influencing countless fellow musicians in the process," Recording Academy President Neil Portnow said in a statement. "We have lost a truly dynamic member of the music community." □



This June, 2015 photo shows Motorhead bassist Lemmy Kilmister performing on the Pyramid stage during Glastonbury Music Festival at Worthy Farm, Glastonbury, England. Ian "Lemmy" Kilmister, the Motorhead frontman whose outsized persona made him a hero for generations of hard-rockers and metal-heads, has died on Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. (Joel Ryan/Invision/AP)

## New Year's Lounge



- ▶ Tradewinds Beach
- ▶ Dec 31st, 9:00 pm to 1:00 am
- ▶ Entertainment by DJ 101
- ▶ Fireworks at midnight
- ▶ Premium Open Bar including sparkling wine at \$80 per person



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# Plenty of Broadway cheer for Christmas as 18 shows break \$1M

**MARK KENNEDY**  
**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fans of Broadway gave theater producers reasons to smile this Christmas, with 18 of the current 37 shows breaking the \$1 million mark for the week, led by "Hamilton," the new Andrew Lloyd Webber production "School of Rock — The Musical" and Disney's "Aladdin" and "The Lion King."

The Broadway League said this week that the shows on the Great White Way pulled in \$36,271,797 for the very mild weather week ending Sunday, much better than the previous week's \$29,484,797 but more than \$4 million less — and with 19,000 fewer people attending overall — than the same week last year, when 36 shows attracted \$40,993,950 and



Leslie Odom Jr., from left, Phillipa Soo, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Christopher Jackson appear at the curtain call following the opening night performance of "Hamilton" at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York. (Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

318,721 ticket buyers. "Aladdin" grossed \$2,095,363 for eight performances, a new house record at the New Amsterdam Theatre. That haul surpassed even its nine-performance record of \$2,078,163 set this summer. "The Lion King" broke the eight-performance-week house record at the Minskoff Theatre with \$2,587,925. (The touring version of the show, currently in Chicago, set the Cadillac Palace house record with a gross

of \$1,810,167.) "School of Rock - The Musical" pulled in \$1,506,236 for the week, setting a new house record for an eight-show week at the Winter Garden Theatre, beating the old record there held by "Mamma Mia!" set in 2009. Numbers for the first week of January — traditionally one of the slowest times on Broadway — will look far worse when a flood of shows close, including "Hand to God," "Sylvia,"

"Dames at Sea" and "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." Some other shows that enjoyed Christmas week include "Wicked" with \$2,400,920, "The Book of Mormon" at \$1,891,356, "The King and I" with \$1,094,022, and the new offerings "Hamilton" at \$1,844,837, "On Your Feet!" with \$1,239,109, "Something Rotten!" at \$1,005,546 and the revival of "Fiddler on the Roof" at \$1,339,255. □

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**CHRISTIAN BALE | STEVE CARELL**

**THE BIG SHORT**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:15  
FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:15  
SAT 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15  
SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

**NEW THIS WEEK!**

**CONCUSSION**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50  
SAT 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

**WILL SMITH | ALEC BALDWIN**

**CONCUSSION**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50  
SAT 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50  
FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

**ANNA FARIS | JUSTIN LONG**

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: ROAD CHIP**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50  
FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

**ALSO SHOWING!**

**STAR WARS**  
THE FORCE AWAKENS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 5:30 | 8:30  
FRI 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30  
SAT 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30  
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30

**HARRISON FORD | MARK HAMILL**

**STAR WARS**  
THE FORCE AWAKENS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 5:30 | 8:30  
FRI 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30  
SAT 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30 | 11:30  
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 5:30 | 8:30

**SISTERS**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25  
FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05  
SAT 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05  
SUN & HOL 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

**AMY POEHLER | TINA FEY**

**SISTERS**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25  
FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05  
SAT 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:05  
SUN & HOL 1:15 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

**CHRIS HEMSWORTH | CILLIAN MURPHY**

**IN THE HEART OF THE SEA**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 9:00  
FRI-SAT 9:00 | 11:35  
SUN & HOL 9:00

**JEFFREY WRIGHT | FRANCES MCDORMAND**

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## Heirs to poet sue 'Big Bang Theory' producers

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The heirs to a New Hampshire teacher who wrote a poem about a "soft kitty" say TV's "The Big Bang Theory" is violating their copyrights. Edith Newlin's daughters sued CBS and other media-related companies this week in New York over the

copyright to a song the lawsuit says has repeatedly been used on the sitcom. The lawsuit says "The Big Bang Theory" used lyrics written by Newlin in the 1930s without buying the rights. The lyrics begin: "Soft kitty, warm kitty." "The Big Bang Theory" characters have periodically sung a lullaby involving that phrase.

Messages seeking comment from CBS and other companies sued by Ellen Newlin Chase and Margaret Chase Perry haven't been returned. Edith Newlin worked at a nursery school in Alstead, New Hampshire. She died in 2004. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages from the show's producers and distributors. □

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# Jim Carter serves 'Downton Abbey' as its beloved butler

**FRAZIER MOORE**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In the grand domain of splendid characters at Downton Abbey, Mr. Carson is perhaps the first among equals. Among the superb cast of "Downton Abbey," a similarly towering figure is Jim Carter, who plays him. After all, this is the saga of a noble estate and those who populate it during Britain's post-Edwardian era, and Mr. Carson, as its butler, is the one who makes that house run. He bridges the gap between the upstairs elite and the servants bustling downstairs. His word, putting forward the policies and whims of the aristocratic Crawley clan, is law for those in his charge. Bringing him to life is an actor who makes Carson's crustiness heroic, his unwavering sense of duty lovable to the viewer. With "Downton" returning for its sixth and final season

(Sunday, 9 p.m. EST on PBS' "Masterpiece"), Mr. Carson's humanness will be exposed more than ever as his torturously arm's-length courtship of head housekeeper Mrs. Hughes (played by Phyllis Logan) finally blossoms.

"It was the slowest-burning romance of all times," says Carter with a laugh. "But the audience seemed to want it to happen — as did we."

What happens, including an unlikely interlude in this first episode "which hopefully will melt hearts across the country," is only one among many resolutions as the series comes in for a landing in the mid-1920s. What will be the fate of the financially distressed Downton Abbey estate, presided over by Lord and Lady Crawley (Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern) with a less and less sure hand? Will their daughter, headstrong Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery), deign to say yes to her latest suitor? Will the sad-sack valet Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle) and his wife, lady's maid Anna (Joanne Froggatt), see



Britain's Kate Duchess of Cambridge, left, chats with actor Jim Carter, who portrays the butler Carson, during an official visit to the set of the TV series "Downton Abbey", at Ealing Studios in London. With "Downton" returning for its sixth and final season on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016, Mr. Carson's humanness will be exposed more than ever.

(AP Photo/Chris Jackson, Pool)

chelle Dockery), deign to say yes to her latest suitor? Will the sad-sack valet Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle) and his wife, lady's maid Anna (Joanne Froggatt), see

their dream of parenthood cruelly denied? Viewers have awaited these and other answers from a costume drama that, since its U.S. debut

five years ago, has reigned as a lavish and literate phenomenon.

For the British-born Carter, 67, the road to "Downton" began long that when he dropped out of law studies at the University of Sussex and joined a fringe theater troupe he equates with "a door to the promised land."

Stage, film and TV jobs followed in a career that has kept him busy and happy, enjoying the process of playing each role free from worry over how the finished product might fare with critics or the public.

"I have no ambitions in the acting world," he explains. "I just need to get out of the house and work and be with people."

After auditioning for Mr. Carson, he thought that piece of acting work would be nice to land, "and I came away thinking, 'I should be very cross if I don't get it.'" □

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